

Dr. Jim Purcell



Dr. Jim Purcell serves as Rhode Island's first Commissioner of Postsecondary Education. He served in similar capacities in Louisiana and Arkansas and prior to that served as the chief planning and research officer for higher education in Oklahoma. Having spent 30 years on the front lines of education and economic development in six, Dr. Purcell's core belief is that the key to unlocking the American Dream in every person's life is education. He has experience working in 2-year, 4-year, public and private colleges and universities.

Dr. Purcell has been recognized for his leadership in higher education by the University of Alabama's College of Education with the *Harold Bishop Award for Leaders* and by the Southern Association of Institutional Research with their *Distinguished Member Award*.

Dr. Purcell holds a B.S. in Public Administration from Auburn University, a M.Ed. in Counseling from the University of Montevallo, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama.